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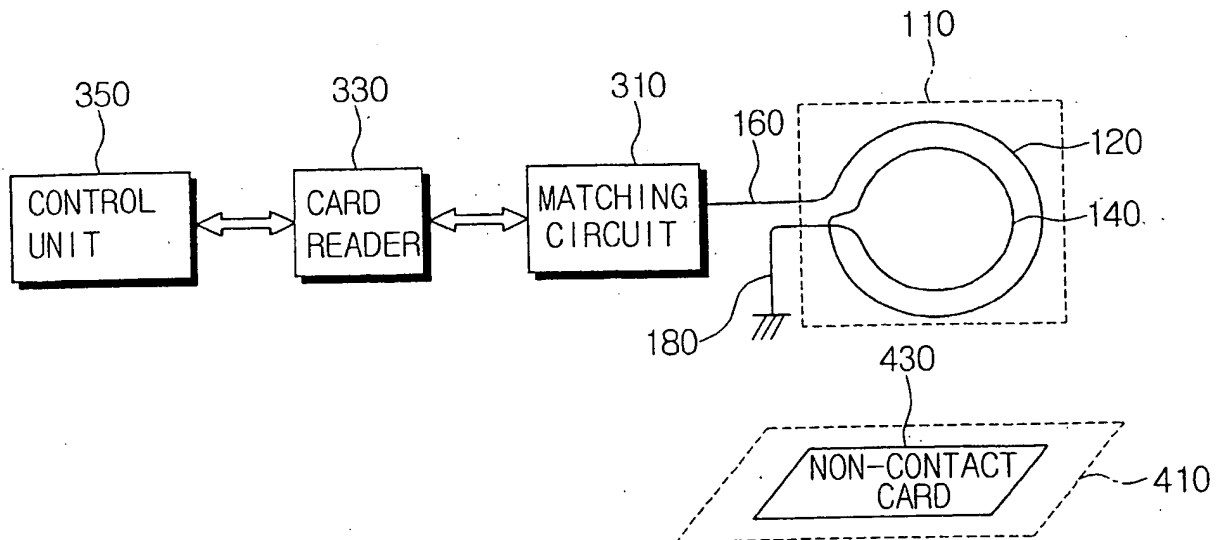
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(54) Antenna for card reader

(57) A reader coil antenna for a non-contact type card reader an outer coil (120) and at least one inner coil (140), disposed inside the outer coil, for generating constructive interference of the magnetic field of the outer coil.

FIG.9



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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a reader coil antenna of a non-contact type card reading system, the antenna comprising an outer loop and an inner loop.

[0002] Both a contact type magnetic card having a magnetic strip portion which is swiped for reading and a non-contact type card, which transmits/receives data using an alternating magnetic field are known. Examples of magnetic cards are credit cards and pre-paid telephone cards. Examples of the non-contacting type card are pre-paid transportation cards and non-contacting type subway credit cards.

[0003] Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating a conventional non-contacting type card identification system.

[0004] Referring to Figure 1, the conventional non-contact type card identification system 10 includes an antenna system 16, a card reader 18 and a control unit 20.

[0005] The card reader 18 generates a current to sense a non-contacting type card 14, and creates a magnetic field formed by the current through the antenna system 16.

[0006] The a battery in the non-contact type card 14 is charged by energy from the transmitted magnetic field, and transmits a signal including internally-stored data to the antenna system 16.

[0007] The signal received in the antenna system 16 is output to the control unit 20 through the card reader 18.

[0008] The signal received in the control unit 20 is compared with master security information (not shown) stored in the control unit 20 to decide card identification, and is transmitted through the antenna system 16.

[0009] Further, the antenna system 16 includes a reader coil antenna, and generates the magnetic field by the current applied to the reader coil antenna and receives the signal from the non-contacting type card 14.

[0010] Figure 2 is a perspective diagram illustrating a conventional reader coil antenna. As shown therein, the conventional reader coil antenna includes a driving loop antenna 22, double loop antennas 32, 34 and a non-magnetic conductive material 26.

[0011] Here, the double loop antennas 32, 34 are connected to each other in a cross-over unit 36. In addition, the non-magnetic conductive material 26 contains aluminium, silver, copper, brass or gold to induce the magnetic field of the driving loop antenna 22 by providing a shield against an eddy current. A driving current for driving the non-contact type card 14 is applied to terminals 28, 30, connected to the card reader 18. The magnetic field is generated in the driving loop antenna 22 due to the applied current. Here, an induced current is generated in the double loop antennas 32, 34 by the driving loop antenna 22. The induced current has a phase difference of 180° from a direction of the current flowing

through the driving loop antenna 22.

[0012] The double loop antennas 32, 34 are adhered to the surface of the non-magnetic conductive material 26. Accordingly, the magnetic field is generated on the front surface of the antenna system 16 where the non-contacting type card 14 is positioned, but induced and absorbed on the rear surface thereof.

[0013] In the above-described reader coil antenna, the driving loop antenna 22 and the double loop antennas 32, 34 have opposite current direction. It is thus difficult to increase a reading distance which is the data recognition distance between the antenna system 16 and the non-contacting type card 14. Moreover, the non-magnetic conductive material 26 induces and absorbs the magnetic field, thus reducing strength of the magnetic field. As a result, the reading distance due to the magnetic field is further shortened.

[0014] Accordingly, an aim of the present invention is to provide a reader coil antenna which can increase the reading distance, where a non-contacting type card is read, due to strength of an internal magnetic field, and a non-contacting type card identification system using the same.

[0015] A reader coil antenna according to the present invention is characterised in that the inner loop is configured for generating constructive interference with a magnetic field formed by the outer loop.

[0016] Preferably, the inner and outer loops comprise respective turns of a spiral.

[0017] In one aspect of the present invention, a reader coil antenna of a non-contacting type card identification system includes: an outer coil forming a predetermined loop, and forming a magnetic field by receiving a current; and at least one inner coil disposed inside the loop of the outer coil, for generating a constructive interference in a direction of the magnetic field of the outer coil by receiving a current.

[0018] In another aspect of the present invention, a non-contacting type card identification system using a reader coil antenna includes: the reader coil antenna for forming a magnetic field due to a signal applied to flow in an identical direction; a card reader for transmitting an operating signal through the reader coil antenna, and decoding an input signal from a non-contacting type card; and a control unit for deciding identification of the non-contacting type card according to the decoded signal.

[0019] According to the present invention, a sensing region of the center portion of the coil is increased due to the reader coil antenna provided with the identical direction current. In addition, strength of the magnetic field is increased near the center portion of the coil, by inserting a non-conductive magnetic material into the inner coil. As a result, the sensing region is increased, communication reliability is improved, and a dead zone is reduced.

[0020] Embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to Fig-

ures 3 to 9 of the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating a conventional non-contacting type card identification system;
Figure 2 is a perspective diagram illustrating a reader coil antenna in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a top diagram illustrating a reader coil antenna in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional diagram illustrating the reader coil antenna in Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional diagram illustrating a reader coil antenna in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6 is a cross-sectional diagram illustrating a reader coil antenna in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 7 is a cross-sectional diagram illustrating a reader coil antenna in accordance with a fourth embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 8 is a graph showing strength of a magnetic field according to a coil diameter in Figures 3 and 7; and

Figure 9 is a block diagram illustrating a non-contacting type card identification system using the reader coil antenna in Figure 3.

[0021] Figure 3 is a top diagram illustrating a reader coil antenna in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, and Figure 4 is a cross-sectional diagram illustrating the reader coil antenna in Figure 3. The reader coil antenna includes an outer coil 120 and an inner coil 140 for forming a magnetic field due to an applied current.

[0022] Here, the inner coil 140 is disposed inside the outer coil 120. The outer coil 120 and the inner coil 140 are incorporated into one coil. In addition, the outer coil 120 and the inner coil 140 are respectively connected to terminals 160, 180 which are signal input/output paths. One line of the terminals 160, 180 is used as an input line, and the other line is used as a ground line. In this embodiment, the outer terminal 160 connected to the outer coil 120 is used as the input line of signals, and the inner terminal 180 connected to the inner coil 140 is used as the ground line.

[0023] The outer coil 120 and the inner coil 140 are mounted on a printed circuit board 50 to prevent movement.

[0024] When a driving current is applied to the outer terminal 160, the identical direction current flows through the outer coil 120 and the inner coil 140. Accordingly, a magnetic field is generated near the coil. Here, the magnetic field is formed in a single direction, and in a space surrounded by the inner coil 140, which adds strength to the magnetic field in a vertical direction (with respect to the surface of the printed circuit board 50, on which the coils are mounted).

[0025] The more the outer coil 120 is separated from

the inner coil 140, the more the strength of the magnetic field 140 is increased in the inner coil 140. However, when the interval between the outer coil 120 and the inner coil 140 reaches a predetermined value, namely where a diameter of the inner coil 140 is excessively small, the strength of the magnetic field of the inner coil 140 is reduced.

[0026] Preferably, the coils 120, 140 are made from thin films plated with copper, and are a few tens μm in thickness.

[0027] The interval between the outer coil 120 and the inner coil 140 is preferably an optimal distance decided by experiments. Generally, the diameter of the coils 120, 140 ranges from 30 to 40 μm , and the interval between the outer coil 120 and the inner coil 140 ranges from 20 to 30 mm. Average diameter of internal region formed by the outer coil 120 ranges from 55 to 65 mm.

[0028] Preferably, when the outer diameter of the coil 120, 140 is 35 μm , and the interval between the outer coil 120 and the inner coil 140 is 25 mm, and the diameter of loop formed by the outer coil 120 is 58.5 mm, the maximum strength of the magnetic field is obtained in the inner coil 140 in a vertical direction.

[0029] Figure 5 is a cross-sectional diagram illustrating a reader coil antenna in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention. Here, identical units to the first embodiment are provided with the same reference numerals. The reader coil antenna includes an outer coil 120, a first inner coil 140 and a second inner coil 150. When the two inner coils 140, 150 are employed, the magnetic field generated in the second inner coil 150 is stronger than the magnetic field generated in the inner coil 140 of the first embodiment. Accordingly, the inner coil may be provided in a multiple number, as shown in Figure 5.

[0030] Figure 6 is a cross-sectional diagram illustrating a reader coil antenna in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention. In the reader coil antenna, a magnetic inducing layer 220 consisting of a non-conductive magnetic material is plated on the rear surface of a printed circuit board 50 where coils 120, 140 are adhered. The non-conductive magnetic material does not have electric conductivity, and has magnetism when positioned in a magnetic field space.

[0031] According to the present invention, the magnetic field exists on the rear surface of the printed circuit board 50. The magnetic inducing layer 220 induces a direction of the magnetic field on the rear surface to the printed circuit board 50. In this embodiment, the induced magnetic field is combined with the magnetic field of a coil direction, to generate a constructive phenomenon. It is thus possible to increase a sensing region due to the current identically applied to the coils, and to reduce discharge of the magnetic field to the rear surface of the printed circuit board 50.

[0032] Induction of the magnetic field is dependent upon a thickness of the magnetic inducing layer 220. Preferably, when the thickness of the printed circuit

board 50 ranges from 0.3 to 0.9mm, the thickness of the magnetic inducing layer 220 ranges from 1 to 3mm.

[0033] In addition, the magnetic inducing layer 220 may be screen-printed on the rear surface of the printed circuit board 50.

[0034] Figure 7 is a cross-sectional diagram illustrating a reader coil antenna in accordance with a fourth embodiment of the present invention. The third and fourth embodiments of the present invention use the same reference numerals. A groove 210 is formed on a printed circuit board 50, in an internal region 230 created by the inner coil 140. A magnetic inducing layer 220a is correspondingly inserted into the groove 210, and adhered to the rear surface of the printed circuit board 50.

[0035] The magnetic inducing layer 220 adhered to the rear surface of the printed circuit board 50 is operated as in the third embodiment of the present invention.

[0036] The magnetic inducing layer 220a inserted in from the inner coil 140, in the internal region 230, forms a magnetic field induced in the same direction as by the magnetic inducing layer 220 adhered to the rear surface of the printed circuit board 50, which is in a vertical direction to the coil surface, and maintains a maximum magnitude of a vertical magnetic flux passing the non-contacting type card. Therefore, the vertical magnetic flux is increased in the inner coil 140, thus reinforcing the strength of the internal magnetic field. In addition, the magnetic inducing layer 220a may be coated on the surface of the printed circuit board 50, instead of forming the groove 210.

[0037] Further, a thickness of the magnetic inducing layer 220a correspondingly inserted into the groove 210 of the printed circuit board 50 140 is almost identical to a thickness of the printed circuit board 50.

[0038] Figure 8 is a graph showing the strength of the magnetic field according generated by the embodiments shown in FIGs. 3 and 7. Referring to Figure 8, a thin line 100 denotes the strength of the magnetic field generated by the embodiment shown in Figure 3, and a thick line 200 denotes the strength of the magnetic field generated by the embodiment shown in Figure 7.

[0039] In the thin line 100, the strength of the magnetic field is smaller in the center portion than the coil position. In the thick line 200, the strength of the magnetic field is almost identical in the coil position, but changes at the center portion where the magnetic inducing layer 220a is inserted. As shown, the strength of the magnetic field is increased in the coil center portion due to the magnetic inducing layer 220a.

[0040] Figure 9 is a block diagram illustrating a non-contacting type card identification system using the reader coil antenna shown in Figure 3. The non-contacting type card identification system includes a reader coil antenna 110, a card reader 330 and a control unit 350. Preferably, the non-contacting type card identification system further includes a matching circuit 310 for controlling input/output signals of the reader coil antenna 110 and the card reader 330.

[0041] Reference numeral 410 denotes a sensing region by the reader coil antenna 110, and 430 denotes a non-contacting type card.

[0042] The card reader 330 transmits an operating frequency including power and a signal through the reader coil antenna 110. In this example, the operating frequency is 13.56MHz.

[0043] The operating frequency outputted from the card reader 330 through the matching circuit 310 generates a magnetic field in the reader coil antenna 110. At this time, the magnetic field is weak between the coils 120, 140 due to a destructive interference, but strong near the coils 120, 140 due to a constructive interference. Thus, the sensing region formed by the identical operating frequency is increased.

[0044] An inducing electromotive force is accumulated in the non-contacting type card 430 due to the discharged magnetic field, and then discharged to the reader coil antenna 110 with the stored information.

[0045] The received signal is input to the card reader 330 through the matching circuit 310. The card reader 330 reads, amplifies, filters and decodes the data. The control unit 350 decides identification according to the decoded signal.

[0046] According to the present invention, the sensing region of the center portion of the coil is increased due to the reader coil antenna provided with the identical (or single) direction current. In addition, the non-conductive magnetic material is adhered to the rear surface of the printed circuit board, and thus the magnetic field is not generated thereon. It is thus possible to control discharge of the magnetic field in an unwanted direction. Moreover, the strength of the magnetic field is increased near the center portion of the coil, by inserting the non-conductive magnetic material in from the inner coil, as shown in Figure 7. As a result, the sensing region for the system is increased, communication reliability is improved, and the size of a dead zone is reduced.

[0047] The coils shown and discussed above are formed in a circular shape, but may be formed in various shapes to apply the identical direction current to the outer coil and the inner coil.

[0048] Further, in the embodiments shown and discussed above, the outer coil and the inner coil have the identical center portion, or a common center point. However, it should be noted that as long as the inner coil is positioned inside of the outer coil, the outer coil and the inner coil may have different center portions, or center points.

[0049] In addition, in the above discussed embodiments, the coils are mounted on the printed circuit board. However, the printed circuit board may not be required if the coil position and the current direction are made and used in accordance with the present invention.

Claims

1. A reader coil antenna of a non-contact type card reading system, the antenna comprising an outer loop (120) and an inner loop (140), **characterised in that** the inner loop (140) is configured for generating constructive interference with a magnetic field formed by the outer loop.
2. A reader coil antenna according to claim 1, wherein the inner and outer loops (120, 140) comprise respective turns of a spiral.
3. A reader coil antenna of a non-contacting type card identification system, comprising:
 - an outer coil forming a predetermined loop, and forming a magnetic field by receiving a current; and
 - at least one inner coil disposed inside the loop of the outer coil, wherein said at least one inner coil generates a constructive interference in a direction of the magnetic field formed by the outer coil.
4. The reader coil antenna according to claim 3, having at least two inner coils and wherein the inner coils are sequentially disposed in an internal direction from said outer coil.
5. The reader coil antenna according to claim 4, wherein one inner coil is used.
6. The reader coil antenna according to claim 3, wherein an identical direction current is supplied to both of said outer coil and said at least one inner coil.
7. The reader coil antenna according to claim 3, wherein the outer coil and the inner coil are incorporated into one coil.
8. The reader coil antenna according to claim 3, wherein the outer coil and the inner coil are formed in a circular loop.
9. The reader coil antenna according to claim 8, wherein the outer coil and the inner coil are concentrically aligned.
10. The reader coil antenna according to claim 3, wherein
 - the outer coil and the inner coil are made of copper, and have a thickness of 30 to 40 μm , and an interval between the outer coil and the inner coil is 20 to 30mm.
11. The reader coil antenna according to claim 10, wherein a diameter of loop formed by the outer coil is 55 to 65mm.
12. The reader coil antenna according to claim 3, wherein the outer coil and the inner coil are mounted on a printed circuit board.
13. The reader coil antenna according to claim 12, wherein one side of the printed circuit board comprises a magnetic inducing layer coated with a non-conductive magnetic material.
14. The reader coil antenna according to claim 13, wherein the magnetic inducing layer is disposed at an internal region of the loop formed by the inner coil.
15. The reader coil antenna according to claim 14, wherein a groove is formed in the internal region of the printed circuit board, and the magnetic inducing layer is correspondingly inserted into the groove.
16. The reader coil antenna according to claim 15, wherein the groove formed on the printed circuit board has a shape corresponding to the shape of said internal region.
17. A non-contacting type card identification system using a reader coil antenna, comprising:
 - a reader coil antenna which forms a magnetic field from a signal applied to flow in a single direction;
 - a card reader to transmit an operating signal through the reader coil antenna, and decode an input signal from a non-contacting type card; and
 - a control unit to decide identification of the non-contacting type card according to the decoded signal.
18. The system according to claim 17, further comprising a matching circuit disposed between the card reader and the reader coil antenna, said matching circuit matching signals of the reader coil antenna and the card reader.
19. The system according to claim 17, wherein the reader coil antenna comprises:
 - an outer coil forming a predetermined loop, and forming a magnetic field by receiving a current; and
 - at least one inner coil disposed inside the loop of the outer coil, wherein said at least one inner coil generates a constructive interference in a direction of the magnetic field formed by the

outer coil.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein the outer coil and the inner coil are incorporated into one coil. 5
21. The system according to claim 19, wherein the outer coil and the inner coil are mounted on a printed circuit board. 10
22. The system according to claim 21, wherein one side of the printed circuit board comprises a magnetic inducing layer coated with a non-conductive magnetic material. 15
23. The system according to claim 22, wherein said inner coil creates an internal region inside of said inner coil and said magnetic inducing layer is disposed in said internal region. 20
24. The system according to claim 23, wherein a groove is formed in the internal region of the printed circuit board, and the magnetic inducing layer is correspondingly inserted into the groove. 25
25. A reader coil antenna of a non-contact type card reading system, the antenna comprising an outer loop (120) and an inner loop (140), **characterised in that** the inner and outer loops (120, 140) comprise respective turns of a spiral. 30

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FIG.1

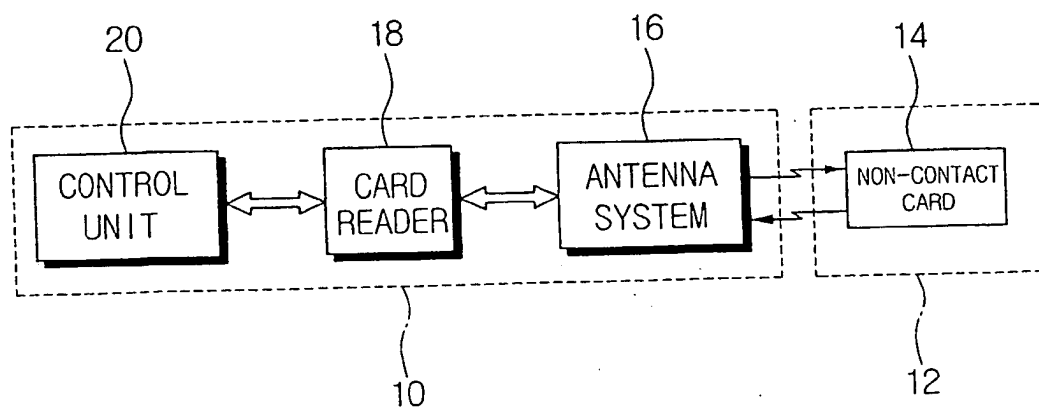


FIG.2

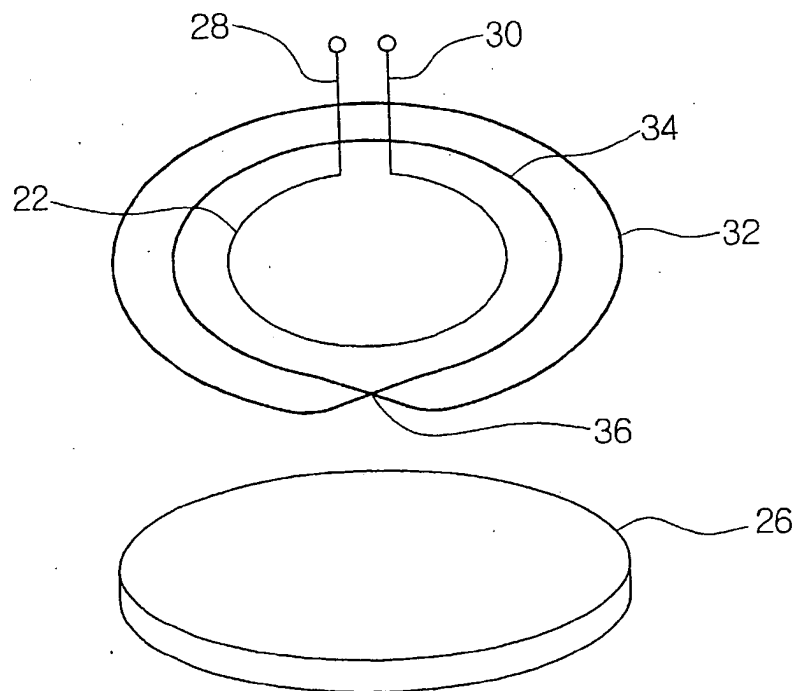


FIG.3

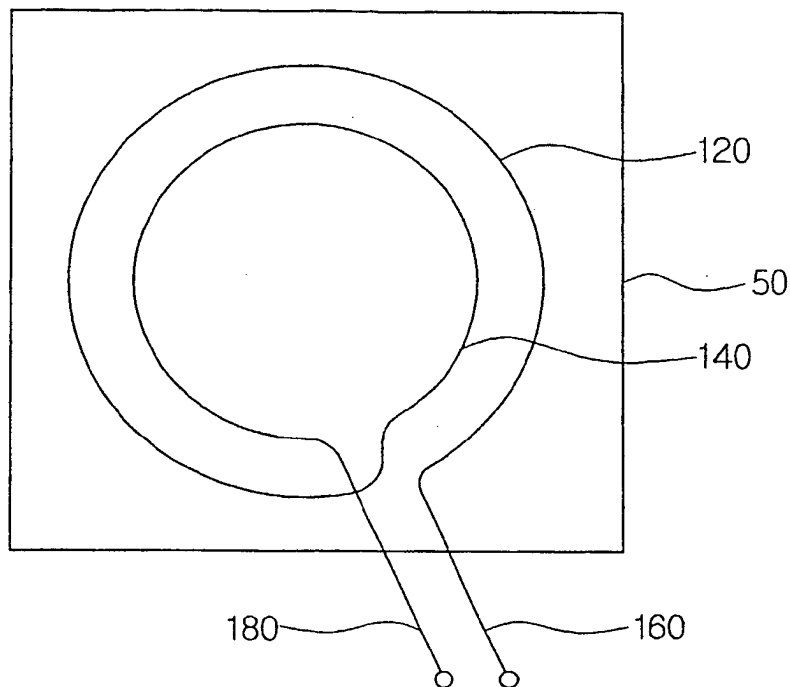


FIG.4



FIG.5

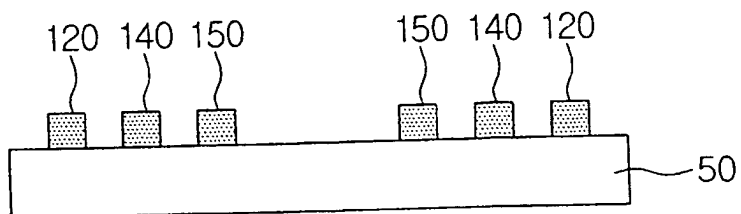


FIG.6

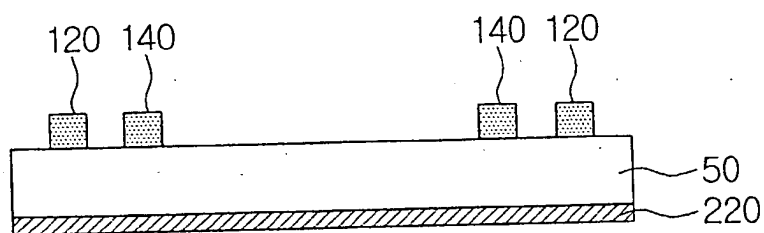


FIG.7

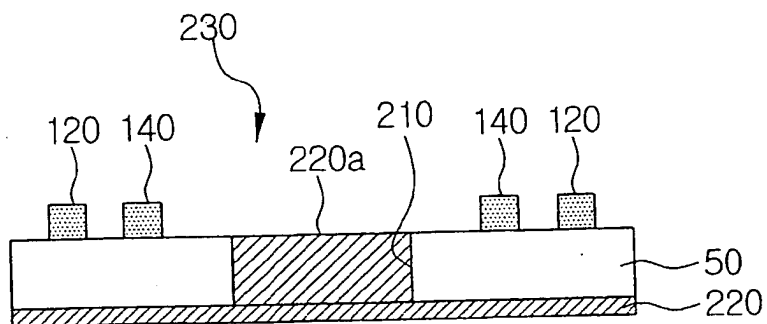


FIG. 8

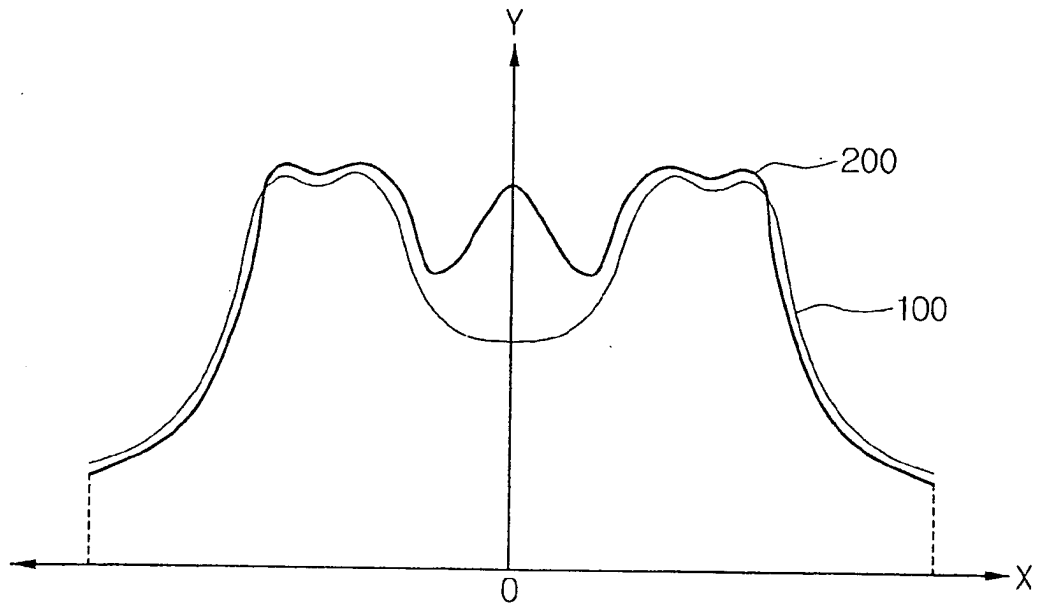
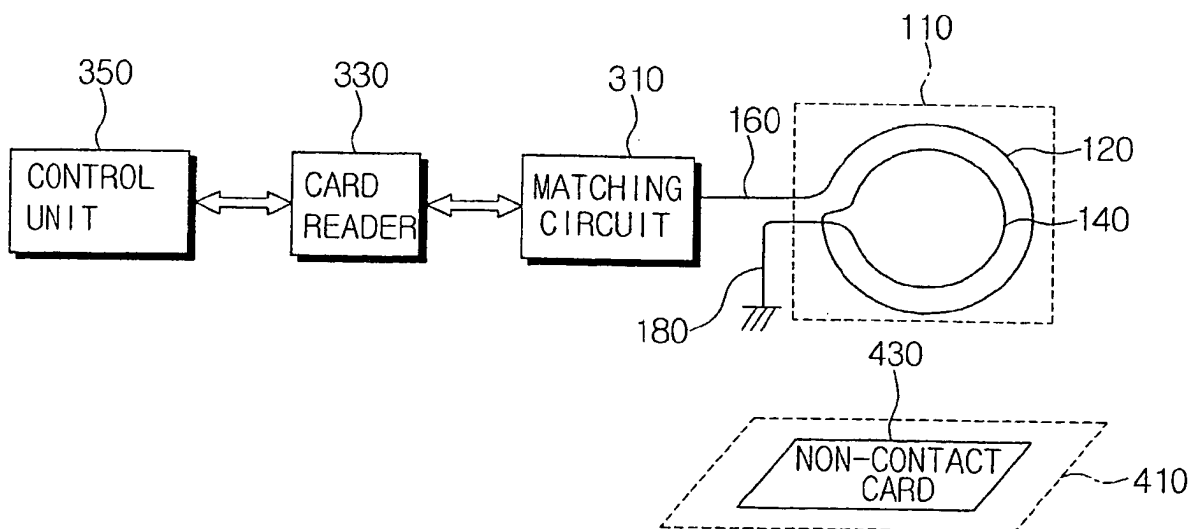
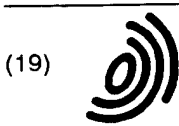


FIG. 9





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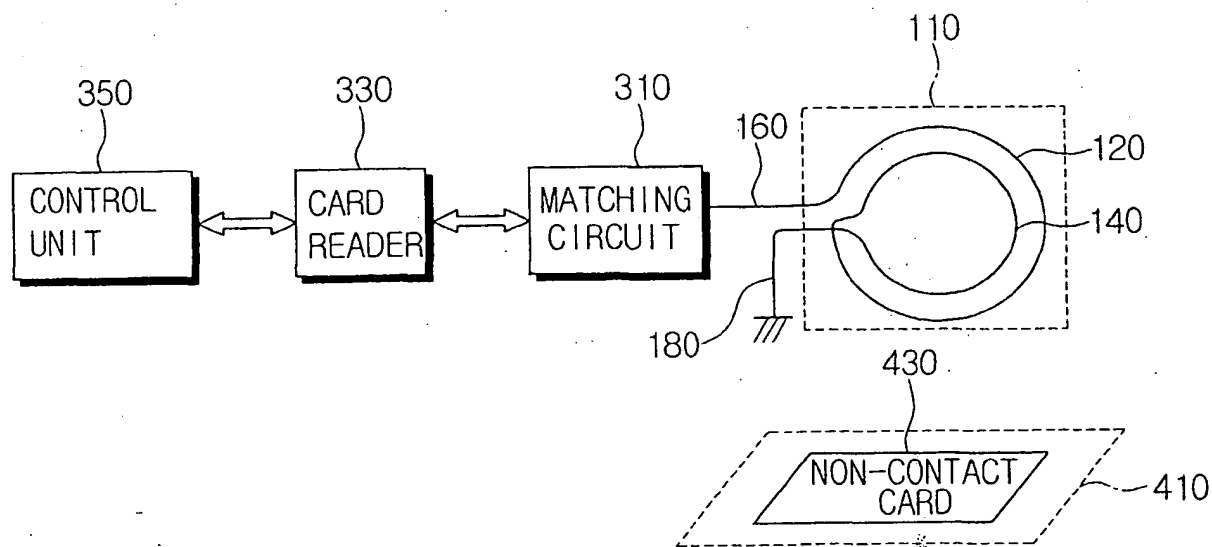
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(54) Antenna for card reader

(57) A reader coil antenna for a non-contact type card reader an outer coil (120) and at least one inner coil (140), disposed inside the outer coil, for generating constructive interference of the magnetic field of the outer coil.

FIG.9



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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A	US 6 165 567 A (CORONELL DANIEL G ET AL) 26 December 2000 (2000-12-26) * column 3, line 40 - line 59; figure 8 *	1-12, 17-21,25	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 7 February 2003	Examiner Fichter, U
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